

cross. The clinging ivy represented ourselves, clinging to the rock of our salvation. As we hang the holly and ivy, we rejoice in the coming of the Savior.

*CAROL: "The Holly and the Ivy"

The holly and the ivy,
when they are both full grown,
of all the trees that are in the wood,
the holly bears the crown.

Refrain:

O the rising of the sun,
and the running of the deer,
the playing of the merry organ,
sweet singing in the choir.

The holly bears a blossom
as white as lily flower,
and Mary bore sweet Jesus Christ,
to be our sweet Savior.

Refrain

The holly bears a berry,
as red as any blood,
and Mary bore sweet Jesus Christ,
to do poor sinners good.

Refrain

The holly bears a prickle,
as sharp as any thorn,
and Mary bore sweet Jesus Christ,
on Christmas Day in the morn.

Refrain

The holly bears a bark,
as bitter as the gall,
and Mary bore sweet Jesus Christ,
for to redeem us all.

Refrain

FIFTH READING: John 1:1-5, 9-14 (The Evangelist tells of the coming of the Light of the World.)

Blessing of the Tree (*Unison*)

We put up evergreen trees in our homes and churches to remind us that Christ is the Tree of Life. We put lights on the tree to remind us that the Christ Child came to earth as the Light of the World. As we light our tree, let us call to mind the One who brings light to our darkness, healing to our brokenness, and peace to all.

*CAROL: "O Christmas Tree"

O Christmas tree, O Christmas tree,
how faithful are your branches!
O Christmas tree, O Christmas tree,
how faithful are your branches!
So green when summer breezes blow;
still green amid the winter snow.
O Christmas tree, O Christmas tree,
how faithful are your branches!

O Christmas tree, O Christmas tree,
with light your leaves are gleaming.
O Christmas tree, O Christmas tree,
with light your leaves are gleaming.
You send a ray through darkest night,
recalling him whose life was Light.
O Christmas tree, O Christmas tree,
with light your leaves are gleaming.

O Christmas tree, O Christmas tree,
O tree of green, unchanging.
O Christmas tree, O Christmas tree,
O tree of green, unchanging.
Since evergreen you stand, we know
God doth eternal life bestow.
O Christmas tree, O Christmas tree,
O tree of green, unchanging.

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

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**HANGING
OF THE
GREENS**

Hanging of the Greens

A Service for the First Sunday of Advent

PRELUDE

*PROCESSIONAL HYMN: "Wake, Awake, for Night Is Flying"

Wake, awake, for night is flying;
the watchmen on the heights are crying;
Awake, Jerusalem, at last!
Midnight hears the welcome voices
and at the thrilling cry rejoices;
come forth, ye virgins, night is past;
the Bridegroom comes, awake;
your lamps with gladness take:
Alleluia!
And for his marriage feast prepare,
for ye must go and meet him there.

Zion hears the watchmen singing,
and all her heart with joy is springing;
she wakes, she rises from her gloom;
for her Lord comes down all-glorious,
the strong in grace, in truth victorious.
Her Star is risen; her Light is come.
Ah come, thou blessed One, God's own beloved Son:
Alleluia!
We follow till the halls we see
where thou hast bid us sup with thee.

*Litany of the Greens

How shall we prepare this house for the coming of the King?
With branches of cedar, the tree of royalty.

How shall we prepare this house for the coming of our
Savior?

**With garlands of pine and fir, whose leaves are ever
living, ever green.**

How shall we prepare this house for the coming of our
Savior?

**With wreaths of holly and ivy, telling of his passion,
death, and resurrection.**

How shall we prepare our hearts for the coming of the Son
of God?

By hearing again the words of the prophets, who foretold
the saving work of God.

For God did not send the Son into the world to condemn
the world, but that the world, through him, might be
saved.

Glory to God in the highest!

FIRST READING: Isaiah 40:1-5 (The prophet proclaims
good news to a people in exile)

*HYMN: "O Come, O Come, Immanuel"

O come, O come, Immanuel,
and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here
until the Son of God appear.

Refrain:

Rejoice! Rejoice! Immanuel
shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, thou Root of Jesse's tree,
an ensign of thy people be;
before thee rulers silent fall;
all peoples on thy mercy call.

Refrain

O come, thou Dayspring, come and cheer
our spirits by thine Advent here;
disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
and death's dark shadows put to flight.

Refrain

O come, Desire of nations, bind
all peoples in one heart and mind.
Bid envy, strife, and quarrels cease;
fill the whole world with heaven's peace.

Refrain

SECOND READING: Jeremiah 23:5-6 (The Lord promises
to send the people a righteous king.)

The Blessing of the Cedar (*Unison*)

In ancient times the cedar was revered as the tree of royalty.
It also signified immortality and was used for purification.

We place this cedar branch in the sanctuary as a symbol
of Christ, who reigns as king forever, and whose coming,
in justice and righteousness, will purify our hearts.

*HYMN: "Joy to the World" (vss. 1 and 3)

Joy to the world, the Lord is come!
Let earth receive her King;
let every heart prepare him room,
and heaven and nature sing,
and heaven and nature sing,
and heaven, and heaven, and nature sing.

No more let sins and sorrows grow,
nor thorns infest the ground;
he comes to make his blessings flow
far as the curse is found,
far as the curse is found,
far as, far as, the curse is found.

THIRD READING: Isaiah 9:2, 6-7 (The prophet announces
the reign of the Messiah.)

Blessing of the Wreaths (*Unison*)

As the simple circle of evergreen branches signifies a life
without end and the endless reign of the Messiah, we
hang these wreaths to signify the eternal kingdom of
Jesus, the Christ.

*HYMN: "Joy to the World" (vs. 4)

He rules the world with truth and grace,
and makes the nations prove
the glories of his righteousness,
and wonders of his love,
and wonders of his love,
and wonders, wonders of his love.

FOURTH READING: Isaiah 53:1-6 (The prophet describes
the redeemer of Israel as the Suffering Servant.)

The Blessing of the Holly and Ivy (*Unison*)

For early Christians the holly suggested our Lord's crown of
thorns, while the bright red berries signified our Savior's
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